

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 841

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require committees to hold hearings upon the issuance of certain reports from an Inspector General or the Comptroller General the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of such committees.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 24, 2006

Mr. TANNER (for himself, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. FORD, Mr. BERRY, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BOYD, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. POMEROY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

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## RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require committees to hold hearings upon the issuance of certain reports from an Inspector General or the Comptroller General the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of such committees.

Whereas the Government Accountability Office (GAO) has determined that the Government did not maintain effective internal control over financial reporting and compliance with significant laws and regulations;

Whereas the Financial Report of the United States Government reported a net operating cost of the Government of \$760 billion for fiscal year 2005;

Whereas for fiscal year 2005, auditors for 19 of the 24 CFO Act agencies reported that the agencies' were unable to routinely produce reliable, useful, and timely financial information;

Whereas the GAO was unable to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements of the government for the 9th consecutive year;

Whereas Federal agencies restatements of their financial statements continues to be a reoccurring problem;

Whereas Office of Inspector Generals continue to find billions in waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer funds;

Whereas the current financial reporting model does not clearly and transparently show the wide range of responsibilities, programs, and activities of the federal government; thus, it provides an unrealistic and misleading picture of the Government's overall performance, financial condition, and future fiscal outlook;

Whereas according to the Treasury Department, the Government's fiscal exposures now total more than \$46 trillion, up from about \$20 trillion in 2000;

Whereas continuing on this unsustainable path will gradually erode, if not suddenly damage, our economy, or standard of living, and ultimately our national security; and

Whereas Congress has a responsibility under the Constitution to conduct oversight of the executive branch and has failed to conduct meaningful investigations of allegations of serious waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement of taxpayer funds: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That—

1 (a) Clause 2 of rule XI of the Rules of the House  
2 of Representatives is amended by adding at the end the  
3 following new paragraph:

4 “(n) Whenever—

5 “(1) a report by any Federal Office of Inspector  
6 General documents fraud, waste, abuse, or mis-  
7 management in the Government that results in a  
8 cost to the Government of at least \$1,000,000; or

9 “(2) a Government Accountability Office report  
10 documents waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement  
11 in Federal programs, including any report on Gov-  
12 ernment operations that the Office has designated as  
13 high-risk;

14 the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of  
15 any committee, that committee or a subcommittee of that  
16 committee shall, within 60 days after the issuance of such  
17 report, hold a hearing on the issues raised by the report.”.

18 (b) Clause 4(c)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House  
19 of Representatives is amended by striking “and” at the  
20 end of subdivision (B), by striking the period and inserting  
21 a semicolon at the end of subdivision (C), and by adding  
22 at the end the following new subdivisions:

23 “(D) hold hearings to question heads of depart-  
24 ments or agencies whenever auditors of such depart-

1       ments or agencies issue disclaimers or restatements  
2       of financial statements; and

3               “(E) hold at least 2 hearings during each ses-  
4       sion on the Program Assessment Rating Tool rec-  
5       ommendations of the Office of Management and  
6       Budget to ensure a complementary relationship be-  
7       tween the Administration and the Congress to im-  
8       prove Government performance.”.

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